

# ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026



**Dream Big, Believe it, Make it Happen**

## DATE

**FRIDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2026**

Virtual on Zoom from  
9:30am - 3:30pm

## AGENDA

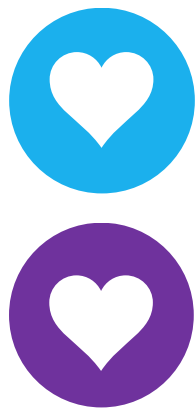
- 9:30am - Welcome
- 9:40am - DfE Panel
- 10:40am - Break
- 10:50am - Dingley's Promise
- 11:45am - debra
- 12:10pm - pdnet updates
- 12:45pm - Lunch
- 1:30pm - FUNMOVES
- 2:30pm - Eva Abley
- 3:20pm - Thank you and close



**PDNET  
NATIONAL  
CONFERENCE**



**HEAR  
FROM  
THE  
SECTOR**



**Register here**



## SPEAKERS ON THE DAY



Department  
of Education



Dingleys  
Promis



debra



Dr Lucy Eddy and Cara Stainforth  
FUNMOVES



Eva  
Abley

# SPEAKERS INFORMATION

## Department of Education

The White Paper, *Every child achieving and thriving*, sets out a national ambition for inclusive, high quality education, emphasising early identification, targeted support and a stronger, more consistent SEND system.

In March 2026, the DfE launched a consultation on proposed revisions to the statutory guidance on supporting children and young people with medical conditions in schools. The consultation was accompanied by draft guidance entitled “Supporting children and young people with medical conditions and allergy”, which is intended to replace the current guidance published in December 2015.

As our sector prepares for reform, join this session with our DfE Panel to learn more about these two key documents, hosted by Mark Houston and Pavan Kaur.

## Dingley’s Promise

Lee Friend, Chief Operating Officer, and James Brown, Head of Training, will share the work of Dingley’s Promise in transforming early years inclusion for children aged 0–5 with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). The session will explore what Dingley’s Promise does, why early intervention matters, and how its specialist early years centres, family outreach offer and national training programme work together to support children, families, practitioners and local systems.

Drawing on more than 40 years’ experience, Lee and James will explain how Dingley’s Promise works in partnership with families, Local Authorities, health professionals, early years settings and wider services to create inclusive pathways that help children receive the right support at the right time. They will give an overview of how the model works in practice, including referral routes, assessment, Learning Through Play sessions, family support, outreach, transition planning and workforce development. The session will also include a map of Dingley’s Promise locations across the South Coast, South and Midlands regions, alongside key statistics showing the scale and impact of support for children and families, including the charity’s twelve Ofsted-registered centres, support for over 600 families annually, and outcomes linked to increased confidence, inclusion and successful transitions into mainstream settings.

## Erin Reilly, debra

Debra are UK’s national charity for people affected by Epidermolysis Bullosa (EB). Debra support over 2,000 people living with EB, with more than 700 of those members using their support services each year. Debra are here for people with EB, their families and carers, as well as healthcare professionals and researchers. Alongside their support work, they also fund and drive vital medical research to improve lives.

Erin Reilly is one of Debra’s Community Support Area Managers and offers support, advocacy, information, and practical help at every stage of life to those living with EB, their families and professionals who work with them.

## pdnet updates

Join us for a session where we will be announcing the winners of our most successful pdnet competition ever "Design a wheelchair for Grandad Wheels" and we also give you a sneak preview of our new website.

## Dr Lucy Eddy and Cara Stainforth - FunMoves

**Dr Lucy Eddy**

Lucy is an Assistant Professor in Psychology at Northumbria University, with a focus on childhood motor development. Her research aims to improve outcomes for children with motor skill difficulties by supporting schools to embed universal assessment and support prior to accessing healthcare services. She is particularly interested in bringing together health and education with lived experience to ensure changes to policy and practice are evidence-based.

**Cara Staniforth**

Cara is a Peer Research Associate at the University of Bradford with a focus on childhood motor skill development and mental health. Her research focuses on improving outcomes for children with motor skill difficulties and SEND by supporting to embed universal assessment and support prior to accessing healthcare services. She is particularly interested in how we can help families, teachers and healthcare practitioners to identify children with Developmental Coordination Disorder (DCD) as early as possible.

**FUNMOVES - Universal screening and support for gross motor skill difficulties**

FUNMOVES is a free, school-based screening tool that enables teachers to identify children with gross motor skill difficulties early. It can assess a whole class of 30 pupils within a single PE lesson, after which schools receive a report showing how each pupil is performing on each activity, and overall, compared to children of the same age across all participating schools. FUNMOVES also includes universal intervention resources for both schools and families, translating evidence-based occupational therapy and physiotherapy activities into practical approaches that work in the classroom and at home. In this session I will share the results of our recent trial of these intervention resources, including their impact on reducing the number of children with clinically poor motor skills and improving communication and collaboration between health and education services.

## Eva Abley

Britain’s Got Talent finalist and disability campaigner, Eva will be joining us to share an insight on her childhood and experiences on living with cerebral palsy.